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General Assembly

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20 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand:
draft decision

Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade
for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

The General Assembly:

(a) Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, entitled "Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994";

(b) Decides, in accordance with paragraph 2 of that resolution, to change the period of the second quinquennium of the Decade to 1992-1996 to coincide with the period of the medium-term plan, namely 1992-1997, so that adequate preparations for a regional action programme may be made, in accordance with resolution 47/10 of 10 April 1991 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. 1/

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 14 (E/1991/35), chap. IV.

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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 82

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Ghana*: draft resolution

Operational activities for development of the
United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 and the significance of resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 42/196 of 11 December 1987 and 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

Recalling its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be their universality, their voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism, and their ability to respond to the needs and concerns of the developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their development plans, priorities and objectives,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation concerning operational activities of the United Nations system; 1/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ A/46/206-E/1991/93 and Add.1-4.

2. Reaffirms the need for the coordinated and full implementation of resolution 44/211 by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taking into account the linkages and interrelationships among issues;

3. Takes note with concern of the overall low level of resources pledged for operational activities for development at the 1991 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

4. Emphasizes that the challenges of the present decade require a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, as well as substantial concessional resources commensurate with the increasing needs of all developing countries so that they can revive and sustain economic growth and development, and emphasizes the urgent need for the developed countries to meet the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance and the targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; 2/

5. Stresses that resources channelled through trust funds should be additional to programme resources;

6. Reaffirms the leading role of Governments of developing countries in managing programmes and projects financed by the United Nations system;

I. National execution

7. Stresses that national execution should be the modality for programmes and projects funded by the United Nations system, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

8. Stresses also that to ensure national capacity-building and self-reliance, the rules and procedures for national execution should be simplified within the framework of enhanced accountability in order to minimize the administrative burden of Governments and the cost of managing projects and programmes;

9. Stresses further that national capacity should be assessed exclusively by the Governments of the developing countries;

10. Requests the Director-General to include in the context of the triennial policy review, on the basis of consultations with recipient Governments, an analysis of the progress made in utilizing the modality of national execution, taking into account, in particular:

2/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

(a) Experience in utilizing national capacities to undertake projects and programmes based on country-specific needs;

(b) Identification of systemic and institutional obstacles and disincentives in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system which impede the full implementation of this modality;

(c) Identification of essential norms and common standards applicable to operational activities to ensure progress in harmonization and simplification of procedures and their adaptation to the needs of the developing countries;

(d) Ways to ensure a balance between the requirements of harmonization, decentralization and preservation of flexibility in order to meet differing needs and objectives, bearing in mind the diversity of sources for technical cooperation;

(e) Measures to improve accountability through training and development in national monitoring capacity, as well as in auditing and financial reporting;

(f) Identification of measures to reorient, inter alia, the technical capacity of the United Nations system to meet the needs identified by the developing countries, including measures in the areas of policy, technical support, and information and databases;

11. Takes note of decision 91/32 on support costs successor arrangements, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 25 June 1991, 3/ and calls upon the United Nations system to ensure that this arrangement facilitates national capacity-building through national execution and to increase and improve the technical advice provided at the request of Governments;

II. Resident coordinator system

12. Reaffirms the continued validity of the resident coordinator system as detailed in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in this regard calls on the Director-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session an assessment of the implementation of the guidelines to strengthen the team leadership role of the resident coordinator;

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34), annex I.

III. Programming

13. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to assist developing countries, at their request, in developing their multisectoral, sectoral and subsectoral strategies, which should provide a framework for coherent programming, and in this regard requests the Director-General, within the context of the triennial policy review, to report on the implementation of paragraph 17 of resolution 44/211, in particular concerning:

(a) The harmonization and adaptation of the programming cycles of all funding agencies of the United Nations system to those of national Governments;

(b) The simplification of procedures relating to project formulation appraisals, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account the need to focus on the impact and sustainability of the projects and programmes funded by the United Nations system;

(c) The feasibility of programme evaluation and audit systems, with a view to achieving a balanced focus on the efficiency and impact of programmes;

13. Requests the Director-General to include in his report the measures taken for the decentralization and delegation of authority at the country level, taking into account the arrangements for the following:

(a) Programme and project management, including flexibility for adjustments and for reallocation of funds;

(b) Negotiations and decisions relating to the project cycle;

(c) Procurement of equipment, provision of training and recruitment of personnel;

IV. Training

14. Calls upon the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to utilize existing capacities to enhance the development of human resources in areas central to national execution as identified by Governments;

15. Welcomes the proposal of the Director-General to undertake a feasibility study on a strategy of training for United Nations staff members and national officials involved in operational activities and requests him to submit the study, with his recommendations, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

16. Requests the Director-General to prepare a report containing an assessment of the contributions of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the enhancement of the scientific and technological

capacities of developing countries and the access of those countries to technologies, including new and emerging ones, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

17. Requests the Director-General to include in his updated statistical report innovative and effective recommendations to increase substantially procurement from developing countries in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 44/211 and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Director-General and to make available the necessary resources to enable it to discharge its responsibilities in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 and the present resolution.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Ghana*: draft decision

Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the organs, organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields

The General Assembly requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1992, to include in the provisional agenda for its regular session of 1992 an item entitled "Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the organs, organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields".

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

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